

## Massachusetts Interconnection Implementation Review Group (IIRG) Meeting Notes

<b>Date:</b>	November 29, 2023	Meeting held as part of the Interconnection Implementation Review Group (IIRG) for discussion on issues related to the DG interconnection process in Massachusetts. Meeting minutes are outlined below. If there are any corrections, additions, or omissions please notify the preparer.
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Michael Porcaro <a href="mailto:Michael.Porcaro@nationalgrid.com">Michael.Porcaro@nationalgrid.com</a>	

## Members

First Name	Last Name	Email	Affiliation	Organization	Status	Present
Kate	Tohme	<a href="mailto:ktohme@newleafenergy.com">ktohme@newleafenergy.com</a>	Developer	New Leaf Energy	Member (Co-Chair)	Y
Michael	Porcaro	<a href="mailto:michael.porcaro@nationalgrid.com">michael.porcaro@nationalgrid.com</a>	EDC	National Grid	Member (Co-Chair)	Y
John	Bonazoli	<a href="mailto:bonazoli@unitil.com">bonazoli@unitil.com</a>	EDC	Unitil	Member	N
Naera	Haghnazarian	<a href="mailto:naera.haghnazarian@eversource.com">naera.haghnazarian@eversource.com</a>	EDC	Eversource	Member	Y
Brett	Jacobson	<a href="mailto:brett.jacobson@eversource.com">brett.jacobson@eversource.com</a>	EDC	Eversource	Member	Y
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Courtney	Feeley Karp	<a href="mailto:cfeeleykarp@klavenslawgroup.com">cfeeleykarp@klavenslawgroup.com</a>	Attorney	Klavens Law Group, P.C.	Member	Y
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Tim	Snyder	<a href="mailto:tsnyder@necec.org">tsnyder@necec.org</a>	Advocate	NECEC	Advisory Panel	Y
Sky	Stanfield	<a href="mailto:stanfield@smwlaw.com">stanfield@smwlaw.com</a>	Developer	Interstate Renewable Energy Council	Advisory Panel	N
Sarah	Cullinan	<a href="mailto:scullinan@masscec.com">scullinan@masscec.com</a>	Advocate	MassCEC	Advisory Panel	Y

## Mission Statement:

Scope of the IIRG is limited to Distributed Generation (DG) interconnection in Massachusetts and processes overseen by the DPU. Topics discussed by the group may tangentially relate to other elements, however each substantive topic must be centrally focused on its relation the state's DG interconnection processes outlines in the DG Interconnection Tariff. Recommendations from the group shall focus on process recommendations to the DPU for processes under their purview.

Additional information is available at the group website here:

<https://gridforce.my.site.com/s/article/Interconnection-Implementation-Review-Group>

## Massachusetts Interconnection Implementation Review Group (IIRG)

November 29, 2023

- Announcements
  - Mike P will be transitioning the Co-Chair role to Brett Jacobson, staying on as National Grid representative
- Procedural
  - Setting this as re-occurring series
    - Last Wed of month from 1-3PM
    - Next meeting 12/27, given holiday group decided to forego December meeting
  - IIRG website contains meeting notes, agendas, and meeting materials.
    - For any corrections additions or omissions, please let Co-Chairs go
  - Document sharing – Can either
    - Use format other than Google, such as Sharepoint or;
    - We collaborate independently and have not total shareable drive
    - **Action: Chis Modish and Dan Mello Guimaraes will make a test folder on Sharepoint to test capability**
  - Charter language
    - Language will be circulated between now and next meeting, notice provided to group that the language will be voted on next meeting
    - Method of determining technical nature, to defer to TSRG
      - **Action: Mike Porcaro to make request at TSRG that they have interim meeting to get agreement on the proposed TSRG deferral language from IIRG**
    - Subgroup process
      - Andrew Hickock provided suggested language for subgroup
      - **Action: IIRG to consider Expedited Process subgroup proposal and vote at next meeting**
        - **Should subgroups be part of IIRG in general**
        - **If subgroups are allowed, is language proposed by Andrew acceptable**
  - Additional topics for IIRG consideration
    - Hiring and utilizing consultants
    - Voting process
      - Advanced notice ahead of votes
      - Proxy voting
      - Vote permitted over email
      - Advisory panel voting rights
    - Until voting is finalized in charter, group agrees to:
      - Minimum 1 week notice before we vote on anything
      - Allow voting by email
      - Designee allowed to vote if member cannot attend
- Topic #1
  - Dan and Russ presentation on Simplified Process
  - Walk through of tariff redline suggestions
    - **Action: Courtney Feely Karp to reach out to DPU for official Word version of model tariff**
    - **Action: Group will have back and forth over email for suggested edits/comments through December in preparation for the next scheduled meeting in January:**

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- Provide comments to Daniel Mello Guimaraes
  - Include rationale behind agreement or disagreement with each proposed edit
- Initial comments to be provided by Dec 22, 2023
- Response to revisions by January 17, 2024
- Dates may be adjusted depending on group feedback and availability
- Discussed concept of increasing kW rating, which would increase entry to Simplified, also discussed concept of collecting new Simplified study fee.
  - Caution brought up that an increase in Simplified application at higher kW can more quickly lead to more upgrades needed, which may not otherwise have been needed if not for the DG, even considering electrification.
  - Group member subject matter experts to provide comment in document edits

### October 12, 2023

- Reviewed history of DPU dockets related to DG interconnection processes
- Reviewed general group procedures and charter
  - In advance of each meeting, Co-Chairs will give the members opportunity for agenda items. Comments from membership and advisory council are always welcome
  - [Michael.porcaro@nationalgrid.com](mailto:Michael.porcaro@nationalgrid.com); [ktohme@newleafenergy.com](mailto:ktohme@newleafenergy.com)
- Concern of the TSRG overlap
  - Suggested that each item be put to a vote if we should push to TSRG
  - Some items will have clearer distinctions to go to TSRG
  - Suggested utilizing SMEs from TSRG as appropriate instead of deferring altogether to TSRG
  - **Action Item: Members to propose language to the Charter**
- Reviewed timing of topics to be approx. 3 months or 3-4 meetings
  - Suggested that this might not be sufficient in some cases, however the group does need to keep topics manageable and keep forward progress
  - Topics can be framed broadly, then phased to achieve narrower scope
  - **Action Item: Members to propose language to Charter**
- DPU Ombudsperson interaction
  - Group is able to reach out to Ombudsperson as needed.
    - Group to discuss any interaction necessary and Co-Chairs will perform the outreach
  - **Action Item: Co-Chairs to submit**
    - **Substantive topic list with timeline expectations for first topic**
    - **Request confirmation of group expectations, level of interaction with Ombudsperson, and topic summary details**
- Substantive topic list
  - Each item needs clear definition to ensure group alignment on the ask.
  - Immediate topics require more granular detail while others further down the list can be less granular but must still be clear and precise in the ask (not overly broad).
  - Current list

Priority	Topic Title	Topic Description
1	Simplified Process Revision	Revisions to the simplified process, including those previously discussed at the TSRG
2	Distribution System Impact Studies	Distribution impact study timelines and costs; including implementation of approved CIPs and streamlining of impact studies for enabled DG applicants

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3	System Modification Costs	Utilizing technological innovations to lower infrastructure upgrade costs
4	Increase Transparency	Optimizing and making the interconnection process more predictable, including improving overall communication and information sharing between utilities, local AHJs and solar companies <b>Suggested to change to refine quantification of projects in (or behind) Group Studies, and monthly reporting of such.</b>
5	Expedited Process Revision	Revisions to the expedited process, focusing on screening, study requirements and expedited process eligibility
6	Hosting Capacity Maps	Revising hosting capacity map requirements to include queue information <b>Suggested to make this a sub-topic of #4</b>
7	TSRG-IIRG Alignment	Aligning TSRG and IIRG operating procedures
8	Area Networks	Discuss processes and approaches to increase opportunity for DER penetration in downtown area networks

- Discussed the concept of subgroups as a means to tackle topics in parallel
  - Point made that the intent of the IIRG would be to tackle pointed issues one at a time, so subgroups may not be necessary/appropriate to effectively drive the group as a whole
  - **Action Item: Members to propose charter language if desired**
- Began discussion on Topic #1, Simplified Process Revisions
- **Issue Definition:**
  - Revisions to the simplified process, including those previously discussed at the TSRG.
- **Specific Group Ask:**
  - Screening criteria update; includes elimination of screen #2, 15%
  - Export definitions and export capacity considerations; UL1741 CRD power control systems as a means of regulating export
  - Increased capacity size to qualify for Simplified to 60kW (25kW export single phase, 50kW nameplate; 60kW export 3 phase, 120kW nameplate); consider queue implications to other projects
  - Planning process for EDCs to perform a study when substantial aggregate simplified have connected (using simplified study rate); simplified study rate would cover moderate system modifications and be used toward the EDC aggregate studies as needed
  - Shared common system modification fee 20-75 (which has been closed per 20-75C, deferred to ESMP process)
  - Procedural question for the DPU – for green and yellow
  - Consider incorporation of ESS into simplified system designs
  - Consider timelines for screening review
  - Closeout procedures; stand alone-interconnection considerations;
  - Better alignment across companies on single parcel rule